

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 501

To amend titles IV and XX of the Social Security Act to restore funding for the Social Services Block Grant, to restore the ability of States to transfer up to 10 percent of TANF funds to carry out activities under such block grant, and to require an annual report on such activities by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 8, 2001

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. DODD, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. TORRICELLI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend titles IV and XX of the Social Security Act to restore funding for the Social Services Block Grant, to restore the ability of States to transfer up to 10 percent of TANF funds to carry out activities under such block grant, and to require an annual report on such activities by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Social Services Block
3 Grant Restoration Act of 2001”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) Since 1975, title XX of the Social Security
7 Act (42 U.S.C. 1397 et seq.), commonly referred to
8 as the Social Services Block Grant (in this section
9 referred to as “SSBG”), has authorized funding for
10 social services to ensure that at-risk children and
11 families, the elderly, and physically and mentally dis-
12 abled individuals remain stable, independent, and
13 economically self sufficient. In 1981, Congress and
14 the Reagan Administration converted SSBG into a
15 block grant designed to give maximum flexibility to
16 States to serve these fundamental purposes.

17 (2) Funds provided under the SSBG focus cost-
18 effective support at the community level that pre-
19 vents the need for inappropriate institutional care
20 which is more costly for Federal and State programs
21 such as the medicaid, medicare, and the social secu-
22 rity disability benefits programs.

23 (3) The SSBG helps to further the goals set
24 forth in the Personal Responsibility and Work Op-
25 portunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Public Law
26 104–193; 110 Stat. 2105) by supporting the Tem-

porary Assistance to Needy Families program (TANF) and support-related programs such as on-the-job training, child care, transportation, counseling, and other services that facilitate long-term family stability and economic self-sufficiency.

(4) The SSBG provides essential funding to many States for child welfare services that support the goals of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–89; 111 Stat. 2115) to promote a safe family environment and encourage adoption to move children into stable and permanent families.

(5) The SSBG helps promote independent living for vulnerable and low-income elderly individuals by supporting home care services, including home-delivered meals, adult protective services, adult day care, and other essential case management services provided in every State.

(6) It is reported that 820,000 older Americans are abused and neglected in this country each year. There are additional concerns about the under reporting of elderly abuse and neglect. The SSBG supports adult protective services that prevent widespread abuse and neglect of older Americans and

1 help more than 651,000 elderly individuals in 31
2 States.

3 (7) More than 570,000 disabled individuals re-
4 ceive a range of community-based services and sup-
5 ports nationwide. The SSBG provides significant re-
6 sources to fill the funding gaps in the developmental
7 disabilities system by supporting such services as
8 early intervention and crisis intervention, adult day
9 care, respite care, transportation, employment train-
10 ing, and independent living services in 38 States.

11 (8) The SSBG supports essential mental health
12 and related services to ensure that vulnerable adults
13 and children receive early intervention to prevent
14 more serious and costly mental health crises in the
15 future. Such services include the provision of coun-
16 seling to almost 400,000 adults and children, case
17 management services for nearly 900,000 families,
18 and the provision of information and referral assist-
19 ance to more than 1,300,000 individuals.

20 (9) There are nearly 3,000,000 reports of child
21 abuse and neglect each year. There are currently
22 over 300,000 children in the American foster care
23 system. The SSBG enables the provision of child
24 protective services to 1,300,000 children, adoption
25 services to over 150,000 children and families, and

1 prevention and intervention services to more than
2 700,000 families.

3 (10) The SSBG has been eroded by more than
4 \$1,000,000,000 over the last 6 years resulting in
5 cuts in services in many States and local commu-
6 nities.

7 (11) Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
8 (TANF) block grants cannot be used to make up
9 cuts to the SSBG because a large percentage of
10 SSBG funds are used for the elderly, disabled, and
11 other populations that are ineligible for TANF
12 funds.

13 (12) The 104th Congress made a commitment
14 to the SSBG in the Personal Responsibility and
15 Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Pub-
16 lic Law 104–193; 110 Stat. 2105) by authorizing
17 the program at \$2,380,000,000 through fiscal year
18 2002 and returning the authorization for the pro-
19 gram to \$2,800,000,000 in fiscal year 2003 and
20 each succeeding fiscal year.

1 **SEC 3. RESTORATION OF AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER UP TO**
 2 **10 PERCENT OF TANF FUNDS TO THE SOCIAL**
 3 **SERVICES BLOCK GRANT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 404(d)(2) of the Social
 5 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 604(d)(2)) is amended to read
 6 as follows:

7 “(2) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT TRANSFERABLE
 8 TO TITLE XX PROGRAMS.—A State may use not
 9 more than 10 percent of the amount of any grant
 10 made to the State under section 403(a) for a fiscal
 11 year to carry out State programs pursuant to title
 12 XX.”.

13 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 14 subsection (a) applies to amounts made available for fiscal
 15 year 2002 and each fiscal year thereafter.

16 **SEC. 4. RESTORATION OF FUNDS FOR THE SOCIAL SERV-**
 17 **ICES BLOCK GRANT.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2003(c) of the Social Se-
 19 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1397b(c)) is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (10), by striking “and” at the
 21 end; and

22 (2) by striking paragraph (11) and inserting
 23 the following new paragraphs:

24 “(11) \$1,725,000,000 for the fiscal year 2001;
 25 and

1 “(12) \$2,380,000,000 for the fiscal year 2002
2 and each fiscal year thereafter.”.

3 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
4 subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enact-
5 ment of the Departments of Labor, Health and Human
6 Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropria-
7 tions Act, 2001 (as enacted into law by section 1(a)(1)
8 of Public Law 106–554).

9 **SEC. 5. REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT ANNUAL REPORT ON**
10 **STATE ACTIVITIES.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2006(c) of the Social Se-
12 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1397e(c)) is amended by adding at
13 the end the following new sentence: “The Secretary shall
14 compile the information submitted by the States and sub-
15 mit that information to Congress on an annual basis.”.

16 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
17 subsection (a) applies to information submitted by States
18 under section 2006 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
19 1397e) with respect to fiscal year 2001 and each fiscal
20 year thereafter.

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